

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 NEA-10 OIC-02 /092 W
-----070878 240812Z /12

R 240705Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3571
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR SEATO
SUBJECT: SEATO - THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL REPS

1. IN A SOLEMN AND UNCEREMONIOUS GATHERING AT THE NEAR-EMPTY SEATO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, THE REMAINING ACTIVE MEMBERS OF SEATO HALD THEIR FINAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING ON JUNE 22. THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS BRIEF; THAILAND'S PIRAPHONG KASEMSI WAS IN THE CHAIR. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT TO REFER TO THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR DRAFTING THE REVISIONS TO A PRESS RELEASE ON THE CLOSURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, EACH OF THE COUNCIL REPS SPOKE BRIEFLY OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH SEATO. TWO HAD SPENT PARTS OF THEIR EARLY CAREERS WORKING AT SEATO, AND ALL REFLECTED SOMEHWAT NOSTALGICALLY ON THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. EACH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE WORK THEY HAD PERFORMED, PARTICULARLY THE DIFFICULT TASK OF PRESIDING OVER THE CLOSURE OF THE ORGANIZATION. PHILLIPPINES REP AMBASSADOR YAN IN THE MEETING'S MOST LENGTHY DELIVERY SPOKE OF THE PASSING ON OF AN HISTORIC

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ERA SPANNING 23 YEARS OF CHANGE. YAN SAID THAT WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT, IT MAY BE EASY TO CRITICIZE SEATO IN THE COLD WAR ERA, BUT THE VERDICT OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WAS THAT SEATO HAD SERVED ITS MEMBERS WELL. NO MEMBER HAD SUCCUMBED TO EXTERNAL AGGRESSION, AND THE REGIONAL MEMBERS HAD WITHSTOOD THREATS OF INSURGENCY. ALTHOUGH ALL RECOGNIZED THAT NEW REALITIES REQUIRED NEW

APPROACHES, THE MANILA PACT WOULD REMAIN "AS A REMINDER
THAT FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE WILL FIGHT AND DIE FOR THEIR
WAY OF LIFE."

2. FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WILL HOST A DINNER FOR THE
COUNCIL REPS ON JUNE 24, AND SEATO SECRETARY-GENERAL SUNTHON
WIL HOLD A SIMILAR AFFAIR ON JUNE 27. AT DUSK ON JUNE 30
THE FLAGS OF THE MEMBER NATIONS WILL BE LOWERED AS USUAL,
AND ON JULY 1 ONLY THE THAI FLAG WILL BE RAISED. THE
HEADQUARTERS BUILDING PURCHASED BY THE RTG WILL BE OCCUPIED
BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SEVERAL OF THE
MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENTS AS SOON AS THE AIR CONDITIONER CAN
BE REPAIRED. THE TEXT OF THE FINAL PRESS STATEMENT WILL
BE SENT TO CAPITALS FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE ON JUNE 30.
EMBASSY WILL FORWARD TEXT AS SOON AS WORDING IS AGREED UPON.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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